IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element comprising:

a thermistor element body including a top surface and a bottom surface;

electrodes disposed on the top surface and the bottom surface of the thermistor element body;

lower and upper terminals arranged such that each of the electrodes is connected with a respective one of the lower and upper terminals, and each of the lower and upper terminals is extended downward;

wherein said lower terminal includes a junction portion contacting said thermistor element body, a short vertical-leg portion bent vertically in a downward direction ~~substantially perpendicular~~ at an angle of about 90° to the surface of said thermistor element body, and a lower-end portion which extends ~~lengthwise in the radial direction~~substantially parallel to the junction portion and substantially perpendicular to the short vertical-leg portion;

~~wherein said vertical-leg portion of the lower terminal is placed inside the thermistor element body in a radial direction from an outer edge of the thermistor element body~~.

2. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein said vertical-leg portion of the lower terminal is located in the vicinity of the center of the thermistor element body.

3. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein a junction portion of the upper terminal and one of the electrodes are arranged to overlap each other at a central portion of the thermistor element body.

4. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein the thermistor element body has a substantially round button shape.

5. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor element according to Claim 1, wherein each of the electrodes includes a nickel layer and a silver layer.

6. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein each of the terminals has a flat-plate shaped configuration and is made of stainless steel.

7. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein a lower end of the vertical-leg portion is bent to define a horizontal connection portion.

8. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein the lower terminal has a junction portion connected with one of the electrodes at a location only near the central portion of the thermistor element body.

9. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 1, wherein the upper terminal includes a vertical-leg portion that is longer than the vertical-leg portion of the lower terminal.

10. (original) A surface-mountable PTC thermistor according to Claim 9, wherein a lower end of the vertical-leg portion of the upper terminal is bent to define a horizontal connection portion.